

John Cassin, in 1869, the Academy's collection of birds, though so important and valuable, has had no proper curator, and has consequently suffered from neglect and disuse. We are, however, pleased to learn that it has escaped serious harm from insect pests, and is now in the hands of an energetic and efficient worker who, as an assistant curator of the Museum, is especially in charge of the birds, and is not only bringing them into an orderly condition, but making known the contents of the collection.

The 'Catalogue' under notice enumerates 156 species, or about three eighths of all the known species of the family Muscicapidae, represented by 502 specimens, including the types of 34 species. The specimens are not formally enumerated, generally merely the localities being given from which the species are represented, with here and there a few critical remarks respecting the status of certain forms, and on interesting phase of plumage. In the main the nomenclature and arrangement of Mr. Sharpe's 'Catalogue' of the family (Bds. Brit. Mus., Vol. IV) is followed. In a former paper* Mr. Stone has given his reasons for believing the *Pratincola salax* Verr. = *P. sybilla* (Linn.). We are pleased to learn that similar 'Catalogues' of other families may be soon expected.—J. A. A.

Bergtold's List of the Birds of Buffalo and Vicinity.† — This briefly annotated list numbers 237 species and subspecies. Says the author: "The present purpose is to record the name of every bird known to occur or to have occurred in this locality. . . . The names of no species have been admitted when the least shade of doubt existed as to the authenticity of their occurrence. In order to be authentic a bird must either have been taken and identified by competent persons, or if seen alive and not taken, must have been of such easy recognition as to exclude the slightest uncertainty regarding its determination." Acknowledgments of indebtedness are made in the preface to various observers, and in cases where species are admitted on the authority of others, the name of the authority is given as a part of the record. The arrangement and nomenclature is that of the A. O. U. Check-List.

Among the records of special interest is the capture of the Skua (*Megalestris skua*) on Niagara River in the spring of 1886, by Prof. Chas. Linden, and a pair of Evening Grosbeaks (*Coccothraustes vespertina*) taken in 1886, by B. W. Fenton. The Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*) is given as a straggler. The Yellow-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax violaceus*) and Wilson's Plover (*Agialitis wilsonia*) are recorded as migrants, on the authority of Prof. Linden. It would be of interest to know whether specimens of these two species taken near Buffalo are

* On *Pratincola salax* Verr. and Allied Species. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila., 1889, pp. 78-80.

†A List of the Birds of Buffalo and Vicinity. By W. H. Bergtold, M. D., President of the Buffalo Naturalists' Field Club, etc. Reprinted from the Bulletin of the Buffalo Naturalists' Field Club of the Buffalo Society of Natural Science. Buffalo, N. Y., 1889, 8vo. pp. 21.

extant. We are also surprised to see the Common Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) given (on the author's own authority) as a rare migrant, this being a strictly maritime species, while *P. dilophus* is not infrequent on the Great Lakes, though not given in the list.

The rather northern character of the fauna is indicated by the breeding of such species as the Winter Wren, the Mourning Warbler, the Canadian Warbler, the Red-bellied Nuthatch, the Hermit Thrush, the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, and the Slate-colored Junco.

The list is obviously far from complete, and further observations will doubtless prove that many species now given as merely migrants are really more or less common summer residents. It has, however, evidently been prepared with considerable care. The author appeals to ornithologists familiar with the region in question for aid in perfecting it.—J. A. A.

Keyes and Williams's Preliminary Catalogue of the Birds of Iowa.*—The present brochure is stated to be preliminary to a more extended account of the birds of Iowa already in course of preparation. The authors state that "only such species are inserted as have come under the personal observations of the writers," and that "for the most parts skins or mounted specimens" of the species enumerated are to be found in their collections. The observations have been made mainly "in the vicinities of Charles City, Des Moines, and Iowa City," but are supplemented by notes made at various other points. The dates of arrival and departure are based on studies made chiefly at Des Moines.

The list follows the classification and nomenclature of the A. O. U. Check-List, including the names of the higher groups, from order to subgenus, as well as of the species. The latter are not, however, numbered, but a careful count shows the number recorded to be 260. The list is very fully and carefully annotated. It is evidently highly trustworthy, and exceedingly creditable in respect to typography and general execution.—J. A. A.

Taylor's Catalogue of Nebraska Birds.*—Nebraska, like Kansas and some of the other Central States, includes portions of two quite distinct faunal regions, although mainly within the so-called Middle Province of the continent. The eastern border of the State lies so far eastward as to include nearly all of the species proper to the States east of the Mississippi River, while the western part of the State is fairly within the arid,

* A Preliminary Annotated Catalogue of the Birds of Iowa. By Charles R. Keyes and H. S. Williams, M. D. Extracted from Proceedings Davenport Academy Natural Sciences, Vol. V. Davenport, Iowa. 1888. 8vo, pp. 49.

* A Catalogue of Nebraska Birds arranged according to the Check List of the American Ornithological Union. By W. Edgar Taylor, State Normal, Peru, Nebraska. Ann. Rep. Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, for the year 1887, pp. 111-118. Published, 1888.